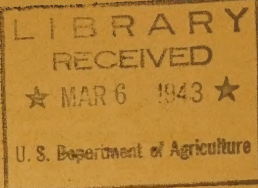


UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
USE EXTENSION SERVICE  
Washington, D. C.



REPORT OF 4-H CLUB LEADERS IN ATTENDANCE

AT THE OUTLOOK CONFERENCE

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 19-23, 1942

Attendance at the Outlook Conference proved helpful in enabling leaders to become acquainted with the likely trends in agriculture and homemaking during 1943 and with conference recommendations based on the discussions held. The Committee of State Club Leaders in attendance hopes that similar groups of club leaders may be invited to attend future conferences of this nature. However, it is recommended that, if possible, such groups include representatives of the four regions rather than just those from nearby States as was the case this year.

AGRICULTURAL FORECAST FOR 1943

1. Farmers probably will produce more livestock in 1943.
2. Crop production may be smaller than 1942's record production.
3. Farm income for 1943 is forecast at 10 to 10.5 billions, compared with an estimated 9.8 billions for 1942.
4. Abundant food supplies and good prices are expected again to stimulate livestock production.
5. Unless weather is unusually good, difficulties regarding labor, transportation, and supplies will make it hard to equal 1942 production.
6. Military and Lend-Lease buying of food is expected to be 50 percent greater than in 1942.
7. Military and Lend-Lease purchases of food will take one-fourth of current farm production.
8. American civilians will make certain adjustments in food habits, but will be as well nourished as ever, perhaps better.
9. The Average civilian will eat about the same amount of meat in 1943, but greater demand resulting from higher incomes will make rationing necessary.
10. The demand for dairy products will exceed the supply.
11. Bread grains will be abundant.
12. Fifteen percent more pork than in 1942 will be needed.
13. We need 200 million more chickens this fall and winter.
14. Carrots, lima beans, snap beans, and onions should be increased in 1943 to offset a probable decreased supply in 1942.
15. Prices of agricultural products in 1943, under ceilings, should remain close to present levels.
16. Only 20 percent as much new farm machinery will be made as in 1940.
17. There should be enough repair parts.
18. New fencing will be scarce and rationed.
19. Uses of nitrogen fertilizers are being limited.
20. There should be enough phosphorus and potash fertilizers.
21. Essential needs for insecticides and fungicides apparently can be met if supplies are carefully handled, but substitutes may be necessary.



## DEVELOPMENT OF THE 4-H PROGRAM

In accordance with the discussions in relation to the 1943 forecasts, the Committee suggests that State club leaders consider the following in determining the content of 4-H programs:

1. National programs such as new production goals; production and conservation of family food supplies; salvaging and conservation of essential materials and equipment; nutrition; health and morale; rationing; and buying of war bonds and stamps.
2. The physical load that can be carried by employed extension workers and their management of available time.
3. The use that can be made of volunteer leaders, particularly the special 4-H leaders, to serve neighborhoods where there are 4-H Club members.
4. The use of available transportation.
5. Coordination of programs within the State.

In developing these 4-H programs, the Committee would like to call attention to the following situations:

1. Troubled attitudes of rural people due to fear of invasion, broken homes, boys and girls going to military services and defense plants.
2. Increased incomes and the best use of additional money available.
3. Increased need for keeping farm and home accounts.
4. Increased need for teaching farmers and young people to make out income-tax returns.
5. New home schedules necessary because of men's and often women's working on different shifts that cause irregular hours for meals and housekeeping.
6. Labor situations, some of which are year-round in character, involving possibility of increased responsibilities being shifted to rural boys and girls.
7. Influx of workers to defense industries which causes congestion, high rents, buying problems.
8. Social problems affecting young people caused by soldiers' camps and defense plants recently built in rural areas.

## WORK TO BE EMPHASIZED

Some of the points that should be emphasized in the literature prepared for 4-H members are:

1. We must raise and conserve more food in 1943.

It takes a ton of food a year for every fighting man we send across the water. Also we must furnish food for our allies and for home consumption. Therefore, in addition to the food to be sent now, we must have a reserve supply for future use on an enlarged scale. Every 4-H member should participate in attaining the new production goals, and the home food supply. As much food should be produced and conserved at home as possible. There will be considerably less canned goods on store shelves than formerly, and because of limited transportation, there will also be fewer roadside stands.



Many luxury crops will not be available unless planted as part of the home food supply.

2. We must conserve essential materials and equipment and buy only what is absolutely necessary, in keeping with good money management.

We are told that we should buy only what is absolutely needed until after this war is over. This, of course, includes mainly clothing, household equipment and other furnishings, as well as obtainable farm machinery and other farm equipment. In addition, reports indicate that many older 4-H Club boys and girls and even younger one, some for the first time, are earning a sizable amount of cash. Therefore, in 1943, young people should be encouraged in the wise use of their own money, particularly in how to make budgets or plans, especially for clothing recreation, and savings, and how to keep simple personal records. Moreover, in 1943, 4-H programs should not fail to call attention to the fact that if a boy, or girl, earns a gross income of \$500 or more he is required to pay an income tax, even though he may be a minor, and his parents will have to pay this tax if the State law does not provide that earnings belong to the minor.

3. We must be ready for more rationing.

Rationing is the only way to make a limited amount go a long way. During 1943, many shelves will be empty and no more things will be manufactured to fill them until after the war. Rationing means sharing.

4. We must buy more war stamps and bonds.

By doing so, young people will be enabled to save for additional education, for establishing a home of their own, and for other future needs. It should be emphasized that every cent spent for war bonds and taxes helps to win the war and to keep prices down.

5. We must carry on in the home as never before if mother is needed to do farm work or is employed elsewhere.

Six million more women will be in war work in 1943. In other words, one out of every four women who are now homemakers will have a job outside her home before the end of 1943. Moreover, "twice as many women and girls are doing farm chores in 1942 as in 1941. Twice as many are working in the fields, and three times as many are operating tractors and other power machinery in 1942 as compared with 1941 according to the estimates of home demonstration staffs in 29 States."\* This situation provides an opportunity to launch two 4-H homemaking programs in a much better way than formerly. The 4-H home-management program will help rural girls to manage the home when their mothers are away, more skillfully and enjoyably than they would if left to their own resources. In 1943, each 4-H girl taking over the complete management of the home especially during "peak" seasons, should learn how to reorganize at least one household job, such as preparing a meal to save motion, steps, and time. The 4-H project for the care of younger children fills a real need in localities where mothers are employed

\*National Summary of Inquiry Into Changes in the Work of Farm Women and Girls Caused by War Labor Shortages. U. S. Dept. Agr. Ext. Serv. Cir. 395. 10 pp., 1 illus. Washington, D. C. 1942.



in defense plants or are called upon to relieve the labor shortage on the home or a neighboring farm.

6. We must assume labor responsibilities on the home farm if older brothers are called to military service or accept employment in defense industries.

All such situations should be considered opportunities in helping to win the war. Sacrifice rather than profit should be the watch-word. Partnership rather than ownership should be encouraged, particularly in connection with the projects of the older club members. Especially important should be training of younger members in definite farm skills such as those in connection with farm chores, vegetable cultivation and that of farm crops, harvesting crops, feed and care of livestock and barn management.

4-H members should be encouraged to invite their city cousins to help with the farm work during peak seasons. They should be encouraged to help all young people from nearby towns or cities in performing farm tasks and acquiring new skills. They can also prove most valuable in helping to provide recreation and in interpreting the country to these young people. All young people doing farm work should be given special instruction in order to avoid severe physical strain and accidents as well as other hazards.

7. We must participate in special wartime activities, such as collecting scrap, protecting property against fire and protecting civilians against air raids and other war hazards.
8. We must help to develop the morale of all rural young people and their sense of responsibility in the successful carrying on of the war.

As many rural young people as possible should be enrolled as 4-H Club members, particularly during National 4-H Mobilization Week, February 6 to 14, 1943. These young people not so enrolled, should be encouraged to attend 4-H Club meetings and all other 4-H events that involve activities considered of importance in winning the war. Young people should be made to feel they are needed and why.

9. We must ask ourselves before deciding what to do, "Will it contribute to winning the war?"

The emphasis should be on more Victory Gardens; production of most needed foods; canning and drying; home baking; conservation of clothing; repair of home and farm equipment; collection of scrap, fire and accident prevention; and other phases of national programs that should be stressed through 4-H Club work.

#### PREPARATION OF 4-H LITERATURE

The Committee suggests that State club leaders prepare simplified literature, particularly for the special 4-H leaders in each neighborhood. It is suggested that care be taken to use one-syllable words, words understood by fourth, fifth, and sixth grade pupils, the pronoun "you," and short sentences. In all such literature, explicit instructions should be given as to what is expected of 4-H members and the special 4-H leaders in each neighborhood. The use of pictures and other



illustrations was emphasized during the conference in Washington. In summarizing the preparation of simplified literature, the Conference felt the literature must be so constructed that 4-H members and volunteer leaders will want to read it, will understand it, and, will, through appeal to their interests, both desire and learn how to act upon it. There must be constant repetition if the message is to be really successful.

#### PREPARATION OF 4-H RECORD FORMS IN 1943

Because of increased responsibilities of all rural young people on the farm and in the home, records should be made as simple as possible and include only the essentials. However, it was felt that the doing away with all records should be discouraged. At the beginning of the project, each 4-H member should know the 4-H goals set both on an individual and club basis. At the end of the project, he should realize the progress made, measured in relation to the goals set, and his part in helping to win the war through his own records. The criteria for reports should be (1) What has been done? (2) What contribution has this made to war objectives? Encouragement should be given to contributions already being made. In relation to still greater production or conservation contributions, the patriotic appeal should be stressed.

#### CONCLUSION

In the development of all 4-H programs, leaders should be led to think in terms of the resources at hand that can be used; of 4-H members more as adults in helping them to assume new and larger responsibilities. They should be let to use the most gifted members as demonstrators of farm and home practices important to winning the war; and to develop the morale of rural young people and those standards of conduct that will enable them to take care of themselves and live up to the ideals so clearly stated in their 4-H Club pledge and 4-H citizenship oath.

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